

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SAJ-01 SAM-01 /051 W

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O 260835Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4150

INFO USDEL JEC PARIS IMMEDIATE

COMUSSAG NKP THAILAND IMMEDIATE

CINCPAC HONOLULU IMMEDIATE

COMIPAC HONOLULU IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 3530

FOLLOWING MSG SENT ACTION SAIGON 26 MARCH 1975 BEING REPEATED TO
YOU

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BIEN HOA 211

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, VS

SUBJ: MILITARY SITUATION IN MR3

REF: BIEN HOA 209

1. THIS MESSAGE IS BASED ON A CONVERSATION AT 1000 HOURS
MAR 26 WITH THE MR3 CHIEF OF STAFF COL MINH. IN THE TAY NINH
AREA ROUTE 22 AT TRA VO WAS REOPENED BY UNITS OF THE 25TH
ARVN DIV AND ON LTL-26 TO THE NORTHEAST THE 3RD ARMORED BRIGADE
REOCCUPIED TRUONG MIT INFLECTING HEAVY CASUALTIES ON THE NVA.
THE NVA/VC SHELLED HEAVILY THROUGHOUT MAR 25, PARTICULARLY TOWNS
AND OUTPOSTS AROUND TAY NINH CITY SUGGESTING AN IMPENDING DIRECT
ASSAULT ON THE CITY. IN THE EASTERN PROVINCES, HARASSMENT ALONG
ROUTE 1 IN EASTERN LONG KHANH PROVINCE CONTINUED.

2. IN THE TAY NINH AREA, THE INTERDICTION OF ROUTE 22 AT TRA
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VO WAS LIFTED LATE MAR 25 BY ARMORED ELEMENTS OF THE 25TH ARVN

DIV WHICH REOCCUPIED THE OUTPOST GIVEN UP EARLIER IN THE DAY BY RF TROOPS. NVA REINFORCEMENTS ATTEMPTING TO REACH TRA VO FROM SOUTH OF THE VAM CO DONG RIVER WERE BEATEN OFF WITH AIR AND ARTILLERY STRIKES ALONG THE RIVER. NVA CASUALTIES FROM THESE STRIKES ARE THOUGHT TO BE SUBSTANTIAL BUT THERE IS NO OFFICIAL COUNT. THE NVA CONTINUES TO PUT ABF'S ON RF OUTPOSTS ALONG ROUTE 22.

3. ALONG LTL-26 TO THE NORTHEAST THE SITUATION WAS STABLE WITH THE GVN HOLDING THE HIGHWAY DEFENSE LINE AFTER A SUCCESSFUL ENGAGEMENT IN WHICH UNITS OF THE 3RD ARMORED BRIGADE REOCCUPIED TRUONG MIT DURING THE AFTERNOON OF MAR 25. IN THIS ENGAGEMENT NVA CASUALTIES WERE 83 KIA COMPARED WITH 1 KIA, 8 WIA AND 2 TANKS DAMAGED ON THE GVN SIDE. THE 3RD ARMORED COMMANDER, BG KHOI, WHO JOINED MY CONVERSATION WITH THE CHIEF OF STAFF BRIEFLY THIS MORNING, SAID HE THOUGHT THE 9TH NVA DIV IS NOW TRYING TO FLANK HIS STRONG DEFENSIVE POSITION ALONG LTL-26 BY MOVING AROUND IT ON THE NORTHERN SIDE, WHICH WOULD PUT THOSE FORCES CLOSER TO THE EASTERN FLANK OF TAY NINH CITY.

4. MANY WIDESPREAD POINTS IN TAY NINH PROVINCE, INCLUDING BEN SOI, NINH AN AND SUOI DA AMONG OTHERS IN THE TAY NINH CITY AREA, RECEIVED ABF'S THROUGHOUT MAR 25 SUGGESTING THE POSSIBILITY OF IMMINENT DIRECT ASSAULT ON THE CITY WHICH WOULD PRESUMABLY BE ACCOMPANIED BY ATTACKS ELSEWHERE THROUGHOUT THE PROVINCE.

5. IN THE EASTERN PROVINCES THE NVA/VC CONTINUED HARASSMENT ALONG ROUTE 1 IN LONG KHANH PROVINCE. THE RF AT OP 2 NEAR DONG TAM III RESETTLEMENT SITE WERE OVERRUN AT 1905 HOURS MAR 25 AND RADIO CONTACT HAS BEEN LOST. EARLIER IN THE DAY NVA/VC INFILTRATED DONG TAM III SITE BUT APPARENTLY LATER WITHDREW AS THE RF REGAINED CONTROL LATER IN THE DAY WITHOUT CASUALTIES ON EITHER SIDE.

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